

as well as visitors from Rome - Jews and proselytes alike – Cretans & Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.'

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 103:1. 24. 29-31. 34

RESPONSE: Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

Bless the Lord, my soul!

Lord God, how great you are,
How many are your works, O Lord!
The earth is full of your riches.

Response.

You take back your spirit, they die,
returning to the dust from which they came.
You send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth.

Response.

May the glory of the Lord last for ever!
May the Lord rejoice in his works!
May my thoughts be pleasing to him.
I find my joy in the Lord.

Response.

SECOND READING: Galatians 5:16-25
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Galatians
The fruit of the Spirit.

If you are guided by the Spirit you will be in no danger of yielding to self-indulgence, since self-indulgence is the opposite of the Spirit, the Spirit is totally against such a thing, and it is precisely because the two are so opposed that you do not always carry out your good intentions. If you are led by the Spirit, no law can touch you. When self-indulgence is at work the results are obvious: fornication, gross indecency and sexual irresponsibility; idolatry and sorcery; feuds and wrangling, jealousy, bad temper and quarrels; disagreements, factions, envy; drunkenness, orgies and similar things. I warn you now, as I warned you before: those who behave like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. What the Spirit brings is very different: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, trustfulness, gentleness and self-control. There can be no law against things like that, of course. You cannot belong to Christ Jesus unless you crucify all self-indulgent passions and desires.

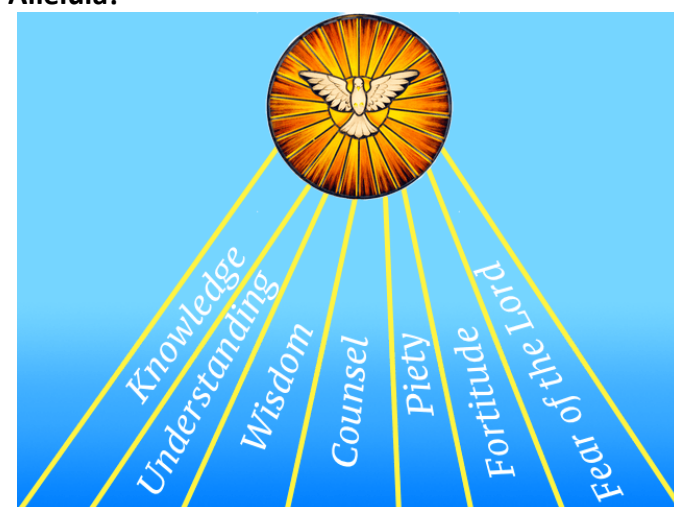
Since the Spirit is our life, let us be directed by the Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE:
THIS WILL BE READ BY THE READER

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.
Alleluia!



GOSPEL: John 15:26-27; 16:12-15
A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
The Spirit of truth will guide you into all the truth.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'When the Advocate comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who issues from the Father, he will be my witness. And you too will be witnesses, because you have been with me from the outset.

'I still have many things to say to you but they would be too much for you now. But when the Spirit of truth comes he will lead you to the complete truth, since he will not be speaking as from himself but will say only what he has learnt; and he will tell you of the things to come. He will glorify me, since all he tells you will be taken from what is mine. Everything the Father has is mine; that is why I said: All he tells you will be taken from what is mine.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:
They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke of the marvels of God, alleluia.

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK:

Deut 4: 32-34, 39-40;
Rom 8:14-17
Mt 28: 16-20

PARISH OF ST. THERESE, DENISTONE



Presbytery and Office

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Parish Priest: Fr Roberto Castillo

Deacon: Rev Mr Aruna Perera

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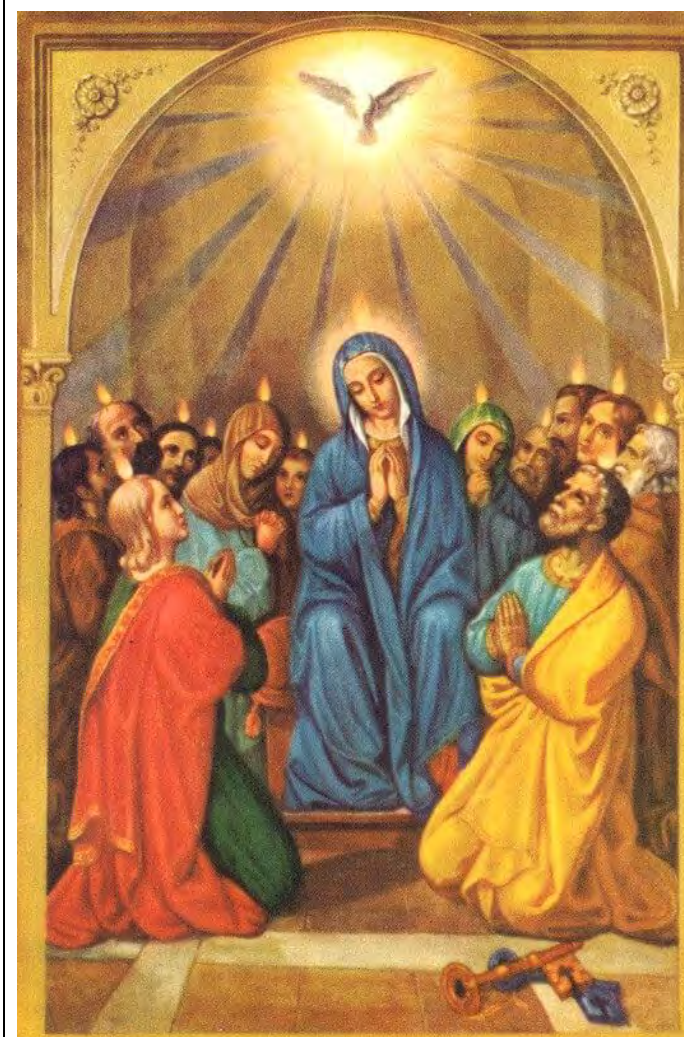
448 Blaxland Rd, Denistone 2114 (02) 9874 0412



MASS TIMES:

SATURDAY VIGIL:	6:00 pm.
SUNDAY:	8:00 am and 10am
MONDAY:	No Mass.
TUESDAY through to SATURDAY:	9.00 am Mass.
FRIDAY:	9.00 am Mass. Exposition & Benediction every Friday after Mass.
RECONCILIATION:	Saturday 5pm – 5.45pm or by appointment.
Baptism:	Every Sunday at 11am or 11.30am. Please contact Parish Office.
Marriage:	By appointment.
Anointing of the sick:	Please give names to Father Roberto Castillo.

PENTECOST SUNDAY (Year B)
22nd / 23rd May 2021



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

The Spirit of the Lord has filled the whole world and that which contains all things understands what is said, alleluia.

FIRST READING: Acts 2:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak different languages.

When Pentecost day came round, the apostles had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.

Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished. 'Surely' they said 'all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene;

(continued on back page)

ACOLYTES & READERS	6pm Vigil	8am	10am	
MAY 22 / 23	Acolytes R MORFUNI	D D'MELLO	M MORELLI	Flowers J KEYSER
	Readers J PERERA	Y LEUNG	VOLUNTEER	
MAY 29 / 30	Acolytes T DABBAH	D ELLIS	G MOODLEY	Flowers N HAHN
	Readers N MORFUNI	S JAYAMANNE	H VAZ	

PARISH NEWS & NOTICES:

Request for Mass and Prayers.

We pray for those who have recently died especially Angela Trovato (*Jamelie Morabito's niece*). Also pray for those who celebrate anniversaries at this time especially Joseph Davies (*10th anniversary*).



Congratulations.

We welcome into the faith:

*Norma Nascone
Zachary Stewart*

Congratulations

who will both become Catholics this weekend. Please keep them in your prayers.

First Holy Communion at St Therese.

Pray for the children preparing for their FIRST HOLY COMMUNION.

- **Candidate & Parent Sessions of Instruction:** Sessions continue THIS **WEDNESDAY on 26th May** in St Therese Church commencing at 7pm sharp.
- **Rehearsal for First Holy Communion** will be held in the church on 5th of June at 4pm.
- **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** will be on Sunday the 6th June at 11.30am.



Mass Attendance Count for 2021.

The FOURTH and FINAL count will be this weekend. This week we will be counting the number of people in each age group as they are called out.

This Mass attendance count is a very useful tool in helping us to more accurately gauge the impact of COVID on parish attendance.



If you would like to assist us with this count please see Fr Roberto before Mass.

Mass for Feast of Mary Help of Christians.

A special Mass will be held THIS MONDAY at 9.30 to celebrate the glory of Mary. You are all most welcome to attend.

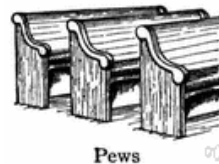
Month of May - Month of Mary.

The month of May is traditionally dedicated to venerate our Lady and we are encouraged to pray the rosary within our families because Mary is Mother – your mother, my mother, everyone's mother – and because she cares for all of us day-in-and-day-out without fail, interceding for us in even the tiniest matters. This year pray especially for the end of the pandemic and peace in the whole world.



Pews.

We wish to thank George Moodley and Alfred Vaz for their work on the pews. They have sanded them and applied some varnish to repair the damage they incurred from all the sanitising we did during the COVID19 outbreaks.



Covid19 update.

- Masks are optional.
- Continue to sign in using the QR codes or the sign in pages.
- Keep your social distance both within the church.



CATHOLIC WEEKLY IS ON SALE AT THE ENTRANCE

- The conversions that rocked Sweden
- A new parish for Sydney
- Frank Brennan: Stop looking up at the sky
- Monica Doumit: Catholics who won't shut up
- Fr Flader: How do I respond to a transgender child.

Pentecost Sunday.

A transformation of major proportions is witnessed in the reading which is at the centre of today's celebration. The events of Pentecost depict a group of followers who are transformed from a hushed small band in fear of authorities who had killed their teacher and leader, to a group making bold orations to people from all over the world. The large crowd gathered who witnessed the Spirit filled disciples seemed similarly bewildered and fascinated, as should we.

This transformation, and what follows, is testament to the power of the Spirit which is celebrated today. The Spirit promised by Jesus (as seen in the Gospel reading) that gifts us with the best of all things (depicted in the second reading) becomes the fuel for the life of the Church. Many recognise that one of the greatest miracles of Pentecost is not so much the wild wind and tongues of fire or that the apostles are able to be understood by all those people, it is that this small band are able to breakout from their confines and speak at all. The Spirit transforms them from an inwardly focused, hunkered down, seemingly defeated group, to proclaimers of God's word to anybody and everybody. Filled with such giftedness, it begins a process where the Gospel is spread to the entire world with billions coming to know the love of God.

Like followers of Christ in those first days following the Passion, we all can feel a bit defeated at times. The COVID-19 pandemic has been a particularly challenging time for many people including Christians who had our ministry, ways of worship and sacramental activities impacted in all sorts of ways. It has left us feeling frightened and disconnected from some of the most important things in our life. Even putting COVID aside, it is not uncommon to hear talk of how living the Christian life can feel more and more challenging in a world that seems to be indifferent to a believing faith at best and occasionally even hostile. These pressures, real and perceived, can accelerate a sense of wanting to turn inward. To see the Church as a refuge where we hide from the world that seems scary and uncertain.

Pentecost is a celebration that flies in the face of such fears – and this is so not in an onerous or confrontational manner, as if we have to ignore our fears and uncertainties, 'toughen up' and face the world. It is precisely because those early Christians did not have to rely on their own strength that allowed them to turn from being inwardly focused and fearful, to outwardly focused and, through whom, the whole Church would spring forth. Pentecost is a celebration that Jesus' promise to be "with us until the end of time" (Matt 28:20) is made true through the Spirit, and this love of God poured out is able to give us all we need to face our world.

(Reflection by Joe Tedesco, Pastoral Liturgy, 2021)

Our Lady, Help of Christians

Mary has always had a special place in the devotions of Australian Catholics. The dignity and strength shown by many of the early penal-settlers in the face of inhuman treatment was particularly true of the many Irish Catholics. At their humble beginnings they turned instinctively to Mary's help, as the Church has always done. While waiting for priest and hierarchy to come, groups of lay people would gather for readings, hymns, Mary's rosary and other devotions, pleading for help as the Macedonians once appealed to Paul "come over to us, and save us!"

The first provincial synod of the Church in Australia took place in September 1844. It was a relatively small affair: Archbishop Polding of Sydney and the new bishops of Adelaide and Hobart met with about half of the three-dozen pioneer priests in the country. Among their decisions, the Church in Australia was placed under the patronage of the Virgin Mary invoked by the title Help of Christians. This was confirmed by the Holy See in 1852.

The choice of Mary Help of Christians may well derive from the first Catholic chaplain in Sydney, Fr. J.J. Therry, who dedicated his church to St. Mary in November 1821. At this time the feast of Mary Help of Christians was new and generated considerable interest.

<http://marianvalley.org.au/our-lady-help-christians/>

